

REMARKS

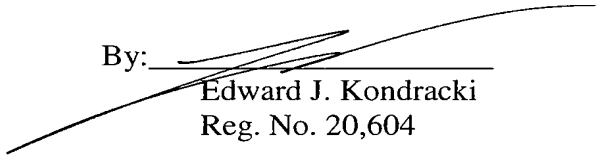
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, as amended. Without conceding to the outstanding rejection, Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to recite more specific features of the invention and have addressed the outstanding 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection.

Amended independent claim 15 recites, inter alia, an input/output module, including a microcontroller and memory, that handles data exchanges between the host computer system and the encryption circuit via a dedicated bus, the input/output module further including a flash memory and a static random access memory, the flash memory storing the code for a processor in the microcontroller, the processor copying contents of the flash memory into the static random access memory during startup. Independent claim 15 further includes an encryption module and an isolation means, the combination of the features being neither taught nor suggested by the cited references.

With all rejections having been overcome, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2147-906625) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Edward J. Kondracki
Reg. No. 20,604

Jason H. Vick
Reg. No. 45,285

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
(703) 903-9000

May 30, 2006

#9303642